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Rosalie A. Centeno
Rosalie A. Centeno, Secretary

In the Application of Oskar Wack

Ser.No.: 10/008,633

For: METHOD FOR THE LIQUID CLEANING OF OBJECTS

Filed on: December 7, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following heading:

--Background of the Invention--.

On page 2, at line 17, please insert the following heading:

--Summary of the Invention--.

On page 7, at line 17, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--;

On page 8, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Preferred Embodiments--.

translation have been replaced by claims drafted in conformity with U.S. Patent practice.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Becker, Reg. No. 26,255
for Applicants

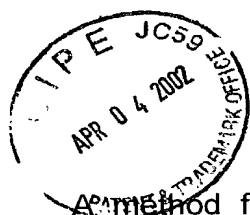
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On page 9, lines 8 and 20, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

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8. A method for liquid cleaning objects using a cleaning liquid having at least two components, said method including the steps of:

establishing first designated conditions at which said components form a solubility gap,

liquid cleaning objects with said cleaning liquid at said first designated conditions,

establishing second designated conditions at which said components form a mixture, and

at least partially separating contamination from said cleaning liquid at said second designated conditions.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein a first component is water and a second component is an organic component.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said organic component contains molecules having lipophilic and hydrophilic groups.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein under said second designated conditions said cleaning liquid forms a two-phase system having a continuous aqueous phase with droplets therein of an organic-rich phase.

12. A method according to claim 9, wherein said first and second designated conditions differ from one another by temperature.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein the temperatures of said first designated conditions are lower than the temperatures of said second designated conditions.

5 14. A method according to claim 8, wherein said step of separating contamination from said cleaning liquid is effected by at least one of separation and filtration.